

State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1635 | FAX (517) 373.3300

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Contact: Kirk Hanna
(866)305-2134

Michigan Ranks 4th in Nation for Fiscal Responsibility

USA Today article ranks Michigan fourth for wise taxing and spending practices

LANSING – Michigan’s work to lower the tax burden on residents and businesses has placed Michigan at fourth in the nation according to a report issued by *USA Today* on June 23, Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores, said.

“The shift in Michigan’s tax policy has lead to real reform for families and businesses in our state,” Van Woerkom said.

USA Today issued a report on the financial health of every state in the nation from 1997–2002 by analyzing tax systems, bond ratings and spending restraint. In each category, states were rated through a four star system, with four stars being the best possible score and one star being the worst.

Earning ten stars, Michigan received exemplary scores, of four stars, in the tax system and bond rating categories. The state received two stars in the spending restraint category.

“In a time when states across the nation are trying to fund important programs and spend taxpayer dollars wisely, I think this report reaffirms that Michigan is on the path to fiscal responsibility.”

The average score of the *USA Today* report was 6.8 stars. Michigan ranked fourth only to Utah, Delaware and Georgia.